

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In a circuit for detecting a recorded area of an optical disk, when unnecessary noise is superimposed on the space portion of the digitized signal (**RF**) of an RF signal from the optical disk, a counter (**20**) for detecting a space portion detects the noise and  
5 resets a counter (**81**) for detecting a recorded area with an output signal **S21** therefrom. This prevents the counter (**81**) for detecting a recorded area from erroneously outputting a recorded area detection signal (**S12**) due to the noise. As a result, a counter (**80**) for  
detecting an unrecorded area outputs an unrecorded area detection signal (**S20**) with high  
accuracy to bring a recorded area signal (**RECD**) from a flip-flop circuit (**82**) to the L level.  
10 Accordingly, an unrecorded area can be detected as it is inherently with high accuracy  
without being erroneously recognized as a portion in which a mark portion has been  
recorded.